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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/784,759

02/24/2004

Lai-O Kang

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34610

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02/08/2005

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EXAMINER

PAPE, ZACHARY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,759

Applicant(s)

KANG, LAI-O

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 19, 21 and 30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-18, 20 and 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 21, 29, 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. **Therefore, the seating surface must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).** No new matter should be entered.
2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 19 recites the limitation "the keeper" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 29 recites the limitation "the passage hole" and "the recess" in lines 5 and 8 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
6. Claims 17, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
7. With respect to claim 17, it is unclear as to what the through-hole is referring to based upon the specification. Further claim 13 states "a passage hole extending through one side portion", and the through-hole of claim 17 is formed on said one side portion of the first body. It is unclear to the examiner how a through hole and a passage hole differ and further how each are configured on the same side portion.
8. With respect to claims 27 and 28, in the specification the applicant refers to the main body as being the body with the input device and the first body with a display surface. Claims 27 and 28 have been treated as described in the specification where the main body contains an input device, and the first body contains a display device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

10. Claims 13-18, 20, 24-29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. With respect to claim 13, Hsu et al. teaches an electronic apparatus, comprising: a first body (3) configured with a passage hole (317) extending through one side portion, a latch (42) mounted in the passage hole of the first body having a frame with a pair of engagement protrusions (423, 424) on opposite sides; a second body (2) rotatably coupled to the first body (3) and having a recess (213) on one surface thereof; and an engagement catch (214) mounted in the recess of the second body.

11. With respect to claim 14 Hsu et al. further teaches that a first engagement (424) protrusion of the pair of engagement protrusions extends outside a first side of the first body (3) in a first position of the latch in the passage hole, and wherein a second engagement protrusion (423) of the pair of engagement protrusions extends outside a second side of the first body (3) in a second position of the latch in the passage hole.

12. With respect to claim 15 Hsu et al. further teaches that in a closed position the first body is adjacent the second body and one of the engagement protrusions extends into the recess (Fig 12, first body (3) is adjacent to second body (2) with the engagement protrusion (423) extended into the recess (213)).

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13. With respect to claim 16 Hsu et al. further teaches that the recess (213) is formed with a latching protrusion (214) that engages with either one of the engagement protrusions.

14. With respect to claim 17, Per the 112 rejection above it is unclear to the examiner the difference between the through hole and the passage hole. As such the examiner is treating the through-hole to be the same as the passage hole. Hsu further teaches that a through-hole (317) is formed on said one side portion of the first body (3), wherein a casing (44) having a seating groove (443) therein is installed in the through-hole and the passage hole is in the casing.

15. With respect to claim 18, Hsu et al. further teaches a pressure member (436) seated in the seating groove (443) and having a seating surface (See Fig 1) on one side thereof determining one side of the passage hole, and a resilient member (431) coupled to another side of the pressure member (436).

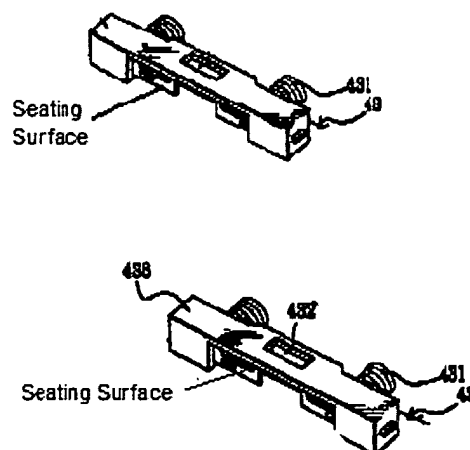


Fig 1.

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16. With respect to claim 20, Hsu et al. further teaches that the electronic apparatus is a tablet computer or a notebook computer. (Column 1, Lines 14-15)

17. With respect to claim 24, Hsu et al. teaches an electronic apparatus (1), comprising: a first body (3) formed with a passage hole (317) extending through one side portion; latching means (42) for latching mounted in the passage hole (317) of the first body (3) having a frame with a pair of engagement protrusions (423, 424) that protrude on opposite sides in first and second positions, respectively; a second body (2) rotatably coupled (via hinges and 5) to the first body and having a recess on one surface thereof (213); and engaging means (214) for engaging the latching means mounted in the recess of the second body.

18. With respect to claim 25, Hsu et al. further teaches that in a closed position the first body (3) is adjacent the second body (2) and one of the engagement protrusions extends into the recess. (As illustrated in Fig 12)

19. With respect to claim 26, Hsu et al. teaches a method of latching a portable computer having a first body (3) rotatably coupled (via hinges and 5) to one side of a main body (2), wherein the first body (3) has a first surface (314) adjacent to the main body in a first closed position and an opposite surface (315) adjacent to the main body in a second closed position of the portable computer (Column 2, Lines 56 – Column 3, Line 5), the method comprising: providing a through hole (317) in the first body; providing a latch (42) in the through hole (317) of the first body; and latching the latch to fix the first body to the main body in the closed positions. (As illustrated in Fig 12)

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20. With respect to claim 27, Hsu et al further teaches that the main body (2) has an input device (keyboard in Fig 2) and the first body (3) has a display surface (LCD as shown in Fig 2).

21. With respect to claim 28, Hsu et al further teaches that the first body (3) has at least one display surface and the main body has a keyboard (as shown in Fig 2).

22. With respect to claim 29, Hsu et al teaches a portable computer (1) having a first body (3) rotatably coupled to one side of a main body (via hinges and 5), wherein the first body has a first surface (314) adjacent to the main body in a first closed position of the portable computer and an opposite surface (315) adjacent to the main body in a second closed position (Column 2, Lines 56 – Column 3, Line 5), the portable computer, comprising: a latch (42) in the passage hole (317) of the first body configured with first and second engagement (423, 424 respectively) protrusions that protrude on opposite sides of the first body in first and second positions, respectively; and an engagement catch in the recess (213) of the main body configured to engage the latch in the closed positions. (Fig 12)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

23. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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24. Claims 22 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Hsu et al. Hsu et al teaches the use of a portable computer (1) capable of coupling the first body (3) to the main body (4) through the use of a bi-directional latch (42), and further uncoupling the first body (3) from the main body (2) rotating the first body (via element 5) and further rotating the first body (3) towards the main body (2) and coupling the first body to the main body via the bi-directional latch (42). Hsu et al. fails to teach that the first engagement protrusion located in the main body releases the first body (3) from the main body (2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to rearrange the engagement mechanisms (button 412, spring 431, etc) of Hsu from the first body of the device to the main body of the device since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70. Rearranging the parts of Hsu et al. allows the comprehensive latching device to still perform the same function as intended.

Allowable Subject Matter

25. Claims 1-12 allowed over the prior art

26. Claims 19, 21, 30 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

27. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to claims 1-12, Hsu et al. teaches a bidirectional latch assembly having a casing, a passage hole, a latch comprising a frame configured with a pair of opposing latching

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holes and catching protrusions on lateral edges of the frame, but fails to teach the use of a keeper configured to selectively engage with either one of the pair of latching holes. These limitations render the subject matter allowable over the prior art.


28. With respect to claim 19, the claim recites a catching step configured to protrude vertically from one side of the keeper with an inclined surface, and a press portion configured to protrude horizontally from the other side of the engagement catch. These limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 13 are believed to render the subject matter allowable over the art of record.

29. With respect to claims 21 and 30, the claim recites wherein front and rear ends of an upper surface of the passage hole are configured to have inclined surfaces respectively. These limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 13 and 29 are believed to render the subject matter allowable over the art of record.

30. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

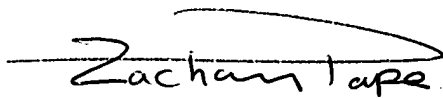
Conclusion


31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).


Gregory Thompson
Primary Examiner

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ZMP


Gregory Thompson
Primary Examiner